Sunday, April 19th: Great & Holy PASCHA

Monday, April 20th~ Saturday April 25th: “New or Bright Week”

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Sunday, April 26th: New Sunday (St. Thomas)

CHARITABLE GIFT PROGRAM

It is with appreciation and gratitude that we announce the reception of a generous gift from the Family of Steve W. Kilsey to the Charitable Gift Program.

Steve was an exemplary steward in our Church sharing his talent, time and treasure his entire life to help fulfill the mission of our Church.

May his memory be eternal!

“With the spirits of the righteous made perfect, give rest to the soul of the servant Steve, O Savior: and preserve him in that life of blessedness which is with thee.”

CHARITABLE GIFT PROGRAM

Father Isaac was a strong proponent of the concept of the Charitable Gift Program. He encouraged parishioners to participate and valued the idea of what the program would mean for the future of our Church.

He not only encouraged parishioners to participate but he and Khourie Dolly while they were here made a gift to St. Mary to have included Father Isaac’s grandmother, Kamal Nassif, memory eternal, as a participant.

To honor Father’s leadership and commitment to the Charitable Gift Program, St. Mary has gratefully included Father Isaac as a participant. Memory Eternal!

“With the spirits of the righteous made perfect, give rest to the soul of they servant Isaac, O Savior and preserve him in that life of blessedness which is with thee.”

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Great and Holy PASCHA
Orthodox Vocabulary

The Resurrection: The Feast of Feasts

Beloved the Apostle says, and so do we all, that our great religions become impoverished if they do not speak about resurrection.

The religions of the Middle East are religions of resurrection. Christianity is, first and last, a religion of resurrection. If there is no resurrection, we live only to eat, drink, and reproduce; then we die and are finished. This life is not worthy of man, because it has no meaning in the end.

Beloved, the Church calls for the Resurrection to be celebrated as the greatest of all feasts and seasons, because no other feast or occasion can stand beside it. The Resurrection is unique. It is the summit of feasts, the summit of what we aspire to, what we desire, and what we pray for. Therefore, we speak today with joy, asking God once more that our joy become general throughout humanity.

On the day of Resurrection, we want the whole world to be the vision and fragrance of beauty. We want the heart of every man to be a spring of hope and expectation in the Resurrection of Christ. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Orthodox Vocabulary

Paschal Lamb

This was the lamb eaten at the Jewish Passover. The lambs were sacrificed in the Temple on the afternoon of 14 Nisan. Then they were taken by the people to their homes and eaten during the night. In the New Testament, the Jewish Passover found its fulfillment in Christ. St. Paul, in his I Epistle to the Corinthians (5:7) says, 'Christ our Paschal Lamb has been sacrificed' When John the Baptist saw Christ coming, he said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!' St. John's Gospel (1:29). The lamb eaten by the Orthodox on Easter signifies more the Resurrected Christ who by His sacrifice redeemed man, and may be taken as a faint echo of His call during the Last Supper for His followers to partake of His Body and Blood. The Orthodox Paschal lamb bears no affinity to the Hebrew Paschal lamb and should not be confused with it.

CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Great and Holy PASCHA

PASCHAL APROLYTIKION: Tone 5
Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (ONCE)

HYPAKOE OF PASCHA: Tone 4
When they who were with Mary came, anticipating the dawn, and found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, they heard from the Angel: Why seek ye among the dead, as though He were mortal man, Him Who abideth in everlasting light? Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath put death to death. For He is the Son of God, Who saveth the race of man.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA: Tone 8
Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN
As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (THRIC)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Dynamis!

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!
The Epistle
Acts 1:1-8
Prokeimenon: This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.
The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, O Theophilos, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

The Gospel
John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have we all received, grace upon grace. For th...